

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 ARA-06 TRSE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OMB-01 L-03 /071 W

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R 050914Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6719

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH COMMERCE MINISTER TO HEAD DELEGATION TO CUBA IN
FEBRUARY

REF: STOCKHOLM 0124 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT OF
FEB. 6, FIFTEEN PROMINENT REPRESENTATIVES OF SWEDISH
INDUSTRY, SWEDISH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, AND SWEDISH EXPORT
COUNCIL HAVE SCHEDULED A VISIT TO CUBA FROM FEBRUARY 16
TO FEBRUARY 20. DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY COMMERCE
MINISTER CARL LIDBOM, AND KARL WARNBERG, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF SWEDISH EXPORT COUNCIL.

2. PROMINENT PARTICIPATING MEMBERS INCLUDE PER SKOLD,
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF STATSFORETAG (HOLDING COMPANY FOR
GROUP OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES); PEDER BONDE, DEPUTY
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF SALEN GROUP (SHIPBUILDING, SHIPPING
AND RELATED ACTIVITY); HANS STAHLE, MANAGING DIRECTOR
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OF ALFA LAVAL (LEADING MANUFACTURER OF DAIRY EQUIPMENT,

REFRIGERATION AND RELATED MACHINERY); SVEN WALLGREN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ESSELTE GROUP (PUBLISHERS, PACKAGING MATERIALS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES), AND OFFICIALS OF SKF (SWEDISH BALL BEARING CO.), VOLVO (LEADING MANUFACTURER OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND FARM MACHINERY), SOCKERBOLAGET (MANUFACTURER OF SUGAR AND RELATED PRODUCTS), AND SVERIGES GROSSISTFORBUND (FEDERATION OF SWEDISH IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE MERCHANTS).

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS, DELEGATION WILL NOT NEGOTIATE A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CUBA DURING VISIT. DELEGATION OBJECTIVES ARE TO DISCUSS WITH CUBA POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING TRADE EXCHANGES AND TO ASCERTAIN WHAT COMMODITIES SWEDEN CAN SUPPLY WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF CUBA'S FIRST FIVE-YEAR PLAN. THAT PLAN REPORTEDLY HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC. SCHEDULED VISIT WAS PLANNED PRIOR TO SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER PALME'S VISIT TO CUBA IN MID-1975.

4. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL (ALF LEWIN) AND MEMBER OF DELEGATION, THE VISIT IS ONLY TO PROMOTE SWEDISH EXPORTS TO CUBA, WHICH HAVE LAGGED BEHIND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, HE SAID MISSION IS BASICALLY PRIVATE, HAVING BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE SWEDISH EXPORT COUNCIL WHICH HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH CUBA IN APRIL 1975. PARTICIPATION BY MINISTER OF COMMERCE, HE SAID WAS IN RESPONSE TO EXPORT COUNCIL REQUEST. LEWIN ADDED THAT COMMERCE MINISTER LIDBOM WOULD ALSO HEAD INDUSTRIAL TRADE MISSIONS TO NIGERIA IN MID-MARCH AND TO IRAQ BEGINNING APRIL 5. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LOU. COMMENT. SWEDISH VISIT IS TRADE ORIENTED BUT COMMERCE MINISTER LIDBOM UNDOUBTEDLY WILL TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH CUBAN LEADERS AS A FOLLOW-UP TO PRIME MINISTER PALME'S CONVERSATIONS WITH FIDEL CASTRO. END LOU.
STRAUSZ-HUPE'

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